KIM JONG IL APHORISMS

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9. LOYALTY

"If a man preserves the faith and obligation demanded by loyalty, he is a loyal man; if he does not he is a treacherous man."

"Loyalty to the party and the leader should, before being a duty, be an honour, matter of conscience, obligation and practice."

"Only loyalty which springs from the root of faith can become absolute loyalty."

"True loyalty is consolidated by a true mind, while false loyalty disintegrates into degeneracy."

"Loyalty to the leader must be kept as one's faith, matter of conscience, moral obligation and everyday concern."

"It is said that love goes down and loyalty goes

up; true love and loyalty are unique ethics that exist between the leader and his fighters and between the leader and his people."

"Between the leader and his fighters and between the leader and his people there exists not a relationship of domination and obedience, but only the duty of love and return for that love."

"A seed, wherever it strikes root, spreads its branches and puts out its flowers towards the sun."

"A man who is infinitely honest before the party and the revolution and who does not try to hide his inmost thoughts is a faithful man."

"A loyal person stands out not in a good situation but in a difficult one."

"The man who follows even at a slack pace is better than the man who follows only when he is pulled."

"Loyalty expresses itself in conscientious work,

not in fine words."

"Vacillation is the first step to degeneration and treachery."

"Degeneration and treachery stem from the cowardliness of yielding in the face of trials and difficulties, vacillation of wavering in the face of appeasement and enticement, and the baseness of giving up will and principle at the critical moment."

"A man who figures his private interests too much is likely to become degenerate."

"Following this road on favourable days and that road on unfavourable days is treachery."

"Turning one's back on the people's will and not trusting their strength is when a traitor shows his true colours."

"A knave is despondent facing a strong power, but when that power declines he rears up in fury."

"The loyal man's mouth is in his heart, while a knave's heart is on the tip of his tongue."

"To talk about loyalty from a selfish motive is nothing but honeyed words."

"A knave has a honeyed tongue and carries a knife in his bosom."

"A loyal man opens his heart; a knave keeps his closed."

"Both loyal and knavish men are all around us."

"A loyal man lives forever, but a knave is soon forgotten."

"The country with many loyal people thrives, while the country with many knavish people goes to ruin."

"Sycophancy and conspiracy are the mode of existence of knaves."

"What comes from a true heart is loyalty, but what is produced on the surface is flattery."

"It is guilty men who flatter."

"Selfish interests and fame-seeking are followed by falsehood and flattery."

"Toadyism and flattery are vices that make a person waver easily in the face of difficulties and trials, appeasement and enticement, and induce him to bend the knee to power."

"While criticism from subordinates can be considered a tonic, flattery from them can be considered sugar-coated poison."

10. FAITH AND WILL; CONSCIENCE AND FIDELITY

"Faith is the fundamental core that determines the value of life."

"Faith and conscience are more precious than life."

"Faith is the secret of a valuable life, and the lifeline of the revolutionary party and people."

"For a man to become a master of the revolution and of himself he must have his own view and faith."

"Revolution is carried out by the force of faith and obligation, thanks to which the life of revolutionaries is a brilliant one."

"In the steadfast character that cannot be melted even by fire nor can fade with the passage of time lies the true value of a revolutionary, his life and his beauty."

"Faith in the greatness of one's leader and party, and faith in one's own people and in oneself can be called strength, passion and the foundation of revolutionary optimism."

"The revolutionary faith is a cornerstone for changing adverse circumstances into favourable ones and misfortune into blessings, and an ideological guarantee for conceiving revolutionary stratagems."

"There is no one in this world who can match the man who is ready to lay down his life–this is the faith and courage our revolutionaries must acquire."

"If a man yields in the face of difficulties, he cannot rise again, but if he braves them through, with the confidence that, even though Heaven might collapse, there is always a way out, he can tide them over."

"Without faith, one cannot preserve conscience and morals, and without conscience and morals, one cannot stick to faith."

"A man without faith bends the knee to power, and a man who curries favour with power inevitably goes astray."

"The faith that once one is determined, one can do everything, does not fall from the sky; it comes from believing in one's own strength, wisdom and ability."

"A man can see the future only when he has knowledge, and he can cherish faith in sure victory of the revolution and firm determination for the revolution only when he has grasped the principles of the revolution."

"For people, faith is verified not by their words but by their actual work, and it is tested not in favourable conditions but in days of trial."

"The life of a revolutionary who has cherished his faith shines forever, even after his death."

"A man must have a high aim and a strong will."

"What cannot be broken is the will of a revolutionary, and what cannot be halted is the struggle of a revolutionary."

"The body of a revolutionary may be chained, but not his noble ideals."

"A piece of white jade may be shattered, but it still does not lose its brilliance; a pine tree may be buried in snow, but it still does not lose its verdure; and a bamboo may be burned with fire, but it still does not bend."

"Nothing is impossible for a man with a strong will. The word 'impossible' is not to be found in the Korean vocabulary."

"A man with a strong faith and will is always yearning for the future."

"Conscience and sense of obligation are a virtue peculiar to man and a source of spiritual strength that spurs people to perform voluntary and beautiful acts."

"Conscience is not a private feeling, but a moral sense of responsibility for the society and people. A

man who does not feel this moral sense of responsibility is one who has lost the value of man as a social being."

"Conscience and heart are one and the same thing."

"What cannot be abandoned lightly in this world is conscience, and what cannot be obtained easily in this world is likewise conscience."

"Conscience mirrors one's behaviour, and is the standard for telling truth from falsehood."

"A man who feels easy after doing a thing that outrages his conscience is a man who suffers from a serious mental sickness."

"A man who has a guilty conscience always feels ill at ease."

"A tranquil mind can be brought about only by the pure, upright conscience of a revolutionary."

"A revolutionary conscience is a precious spiritual treasure cherished in the course of cultivating oneself ceaselessly."

"A true mind is perceptible only in a man who not only regards others' affairs as his own responsibility but also devotes his all for the benefit of others."

"Moral obligation is a basic symbol that determines the personality of a revolutionary."

"Through the feeling of obligation the prestige of man shines, true human relationship is established and harmonious human life arises."

"If remaining steadfast is the highest virtue of a revolutionary, what is most despicable and shameful for him is treachery and degeneracy."

"Respect for the revolutionary seniors is demanded by the revolution, and a noble moral obligation for revolutionaries."

"The highest representative of the revolutionary seniors is the leader, and loyalty to the leader is the highest expression of the sense of revolutionary obligation."

"Vilifying revolutionary seniors and defaming their ideas and accomplishments is tantamount to disgracing the revolution and grovelling at the feet of the enemies of the revolution."

"In its moral hypocrisy the exploiting class shows its true colours, and moral corruption is an inevitable product of bourgeois society."

11. TRUST AND LOVE; COMRADES AND COMRADESHIP

"Trust is the spiritual source of love and obligation."

"Repaying love with love is a human virtue."

"Trust and love are inevitably followed by loyalty and obligation."

"Flattery tags along in the wake of abuse of power, whereas sincerity follows trust and love."

"There is love only when there is trust, and a comradely relationship is established only when there is love."

"Trust produces loyalty, mistrust betrayal."

"Trust produces unity, mistrust betrayal and division."

"A man is worthy of trust only when he is honest and sincere, and only when he is worthy of trust can he be a part of comradely unity."

"Trust is love."

"The greatest love a revolutionary can give his comrade is trust."

"Trust is itself an effective education."

"Being given a task is an expression of trust."

"Trust nurtures people."

"Only when you fully trust others can you win trust from them."

"If one has human love, one has love for the nation, and if one has love for the nation, one has love for humanity."

"Both patriotism and revolution start with love for people."

"A revolution that realizes man's independence can be called the greatest love, a love that makes man perfect. This is the philosophy of love."

"The greatest love for people is shown by equipping them with the consciousness of

independence and awakening them ideologically, and the greatest crime against people is paralyzing their consciousness of independence and making them degenerate ideologically."

"Only a great man can have great love."

"A man with no love for people can never make revolution."

"Human feeling is in the warm hearts of people who boundlessly cherish and love others."

"A man with no human feeling is no different from a flower without fragrance or a tree without leaves."

"A stiff and cold-hearted person cannot love people warmly."

"No love, no hatred; no spirit of treasuring, no spirit of self-sacrifice."

"Love that proceeds from a selfish motive is not love, but hypocrisy."

"In criticism there is true love."

"Criticism is love and trust."

"As fire tempers steel, so criticism trains and fosters people."

"Iron can only be transformed into steel in a raging furnace, and a flowering plant bears tough and yet beautiful flowers only when it is exposed to the weather in an open field."

"A man who does not feel heartache over a mistake cannot warmly accept success and protect that success."

"If human feelings are shared between people, they can confide in one another; if they can confide in one another, they become comrades."

"No one in the world is more precious than a revolutionary comrade and no strength is greater than the strength of unity formed through revolutionary comradeship."

"There is an old saying that 800 *ryang* of gold will buy a house and 1 000 *ryang* a neighbour, but even 1 000 *ryang* cannot buy a revolutionary comrade."

"A revolutionary gains friends and comrades through purpose and humanity."

"A revolutionary feels happiest when he has found a true comrade, and unhappiest when he has lost such a comrade."

"Revolutionaries can live separate from their parents, but they cannot live a moment separate from their comrades."

"A man who does not love his comrades wholeheartedly and does not treat them honestly

cannot be faithful to the party and the revolution."

"Love for revolutionary comrades is the acme of love for mankind and its highest form."

"What cannot be bought even with a heap of gold is the love of a comrade and what cannot be exchanged even for the world is the trust of a comrade."

"He who does not love his comrades cannot be loved by them."

"In the world of comradeship there is only the faith that I am you and you are me, together with love and loyalty."

"Our comradeship is a flower of love and loyalty blossoming in the land of unity."

"He who boundlessly loves and treasures his revolutionary comrades is the one who can gain true comrades and be blessed forever with their love and care."

"For us, assistance is not something like charity; it is a concrete expression of comradeship and how a revolutionary helps his revolutionary comrades is a yardstick for measuring his personality, and furthermore for measuring his stand and attitude concerning the revolution."

"Odious indeed are relations between people marked by becoming brothers when it is advantageous to do so and strangers when it is disadvantageous to be brothers, becoming friends when the situation is favourable and enemies when it is unfavorable."

12. THINKING AND PASSION; TIME AND ENDEAVOUR

"Thinking is the mother of invention."

"Think, think and think again! Then you will succeed."

"He who neglects to think is nothing but a great loafer."

"Poverty of philosophy results in poverty of thought, which in turn ends in poverty of creation."

"The more the brain is used the more fertile it becomes; the less it is used the rustier and duller it becomes."

"Think one hundred times before you make a decision."

"Improvisation leads to error."

"Find a great thing in the commonplace, see a great thing in the small."

"Weak in judgement, strong in prejudice."

"Dim eyes miss the target."

"When passion accompanies thinking, thinking

gives rise to passion, producing inexhaustible creative strength."

"Passion is the source of great creation."

"Without sympathy, the heart cannot be moved, and without heart, no passion can be aroused."

"Oratory lacking passion cannot cause the people's heartstrings to vibrate."

"The easiest thing to lose in the world is time."

"Only he who knows how precious time is can scale the fortress of science."

"Seize time by all possible means, and don't pause in the endeavour to build the tower of scientific knowledge."

"The broad future demands great efforts."

"What is more precious than talent is

passionate effort."

"In this world no fruit can be plucked without exertion, and no undertaking can be completed without effort."

"When a man is aware that he does not know, he will be determined to learn; and when he realizes that his experiences are outdated, he will conceive the firm intention of acquiring new ones."

"Satisfaction presupposes failure."

"Self-complacency produces idleness, ennui and irresponsibility."

13. POLITICS AND THE ECONOMY; FOREIGN RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY

"Politics is an art."

"Political philosophy is the compass of leadership."

"Poverty in philosophy breeds poverty in politics."

"The appeal of genuine politics is in keenly grasping the objective situation and, by taking advantage of it in time, creating a new phase of the situation."

"If the country is good because of its excellent people, and if the public sentiment is good because of laudable politics, then prosperity results."

"The politics that people demand and sympathize with in every civilized society is democratic politics."

"Trusting and giving more attention to what the masses say is truly democratic politics."

"Human rights are national rights."

"Love and trust comprise the essence of politics in socialist society, in which the masses of the people have become the masters of politics from being the objects of politics."

"Political independence not supported by economic self-sufficiency is no more than an empty phrase."

"The whistling of the locomotive is the breath and pulse of the country."

"Economy is production."

"Embezzlement and wastefulness are twins."

"The independence of a country and nation is the basis of solid international relationships, and independent foreign policies are the most just and principled ones."

"Foreign activities are very delicate political activities that demand keen political insight, the

greatest prudence and a rich knowledge of etiquette."

"Friendship is needed for independence, but genuine friendship can be ensured only on the stand of independence."

"In diplomacy, one must smile even while swallowing something bitter."

"In diplomacy, too, passiveness is taboo."

"Today's diplomacy is a battle of brains."

"A diplomat is like the face of his country."

"Officials in the field of external work must have knowledge as wide and deep as a lake, not as shallow as a stream."

14. SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

"The present era is one of science and

technology, which is the basis of economic advance."

"The view of, and attitude to, science and technology are the view of, and attitude to, the revolution, and despising science and technology is tantamount to being unwilling to wage revolution."

"Practical production is the source and motive force of the development of science and technology, and the best yardstick for estimating the results of scientific research."

"Without scientific vision and imagination firmly planted in reality, one cannot picture the future of science and spur the development of science itself."

"Our science must be science for the people and science for the prosperity of the motherland, not science simply for the sake of science."

"The key to success in scientific research is burning passion and tireless efforts."

"There is no puzzle in the world that cannot be solved."

"A man who is determined to devote his life to science must become an ardent patriot before becoming a scientist."

"There is no border in science, but our intellectuals have their socialist motherland of Juche."

"Principle itself is profound as well as simple and clear truth."

"Fashion is seasonal, but truth is eternal."

"Truth can be neither eclipsed nor obliterated."

"The real truth remains the truth no matter how grim the trials or the storms of the times."

"The simpler and easier to grasp the truth is, the more brilliant it is."

"Education is a long-term undertaking for the everlasting prosperity of a country."

"A school is a nest for the future of the country."

"Slowing down one step in the education of the younger generation means a ten-step delay in the advance of the country."

"Our students must first learn about their country, their revolution, their society and their fellow people before learning technology."

"Like gardeners who raise flowers and trees, teachers are revolutionaries who tend and bring up the future of the country."

"To teach others one, you must know ten or a hundred."

"The measure of a teacher's worth is the quality of education and academic attainment of his students."

"Studying is an important undertaking to acquire the truth of revolution and the first process in establishing a revolutionary outlook on the world."

"More important than learning by heart ten words uttered by someone else is learning to speak one correct word of one's own."

"Professionalism is the fruit of strenuous and energetic studying."

"Practical experience is a form of studying."

"A book is a silent teacher, and a precious and indispensable companion in life."

"An excellent book is part of the common wealth of humanity."

"The present era is one of a war of brains, of a war of knowledge."

"Knowledge is strength, and the more society

develops and the more the times advance, the greater the strength of knowledge."

"Knowledge is a gemstone that makes the value of man shine out."

"Talent is an asset more precious than any material wealth."

"As a house on a weak foundation cannot last long, a fantasy, however good it is, becomes an absurd daydream if it is supported by weak basic knowledge."

"A man sees, hears, feels and absorbs as much as he understands."

"Knowledge produces knowledge."

"Self-confidence comes only from understanding."

"A man with a wide knowledge is flexible in work and life and modest in his personality."

"Pretending to know is as foolish as cheating oneself and stabbing one's own foot."

"A wise man is not one who fancies he knows everything, but one who keenly realizes that he does not know."

"A learned man is not one who uses complicated and difficult words in spoken and written language, but one who uses words that are easily understood by ordinary people."

"Self-admiration is always followed by arrogance, which in turn entails idleness, slackness and ennui in work."

"Genius is a wealth of the country."

15. ART AND LITERATURE

"Art and literature are products and weapons of politics."

"Art and literature can make their way into places where politics cannot, and win what cannot be won with weaponry."

"An excellent work of art or literature is a product of great struggle, a product of great times."

"Life can be described in depth only in the context of human relations, and human relations can be portrayed in bold relief only in the context of life."

"The standard of beauty is the aspirations and demands of the masses."

"What the masses say is good is good, and what they say is beautiful is beautiful."

"Art loved by the common people is the most ennobling and genuine art."

"The people are the genuine masters of language,

creating and developing the most beautiful, elegant and forceful words."

"It is in real life that literature and the arts are to be found."

"The essential characteristics and basic features of a masterpiece lie in the philosophical depth of its ideological content, not in its scale and form."

"A work of art or literature that presents a problem of social significance sharply and vividly through individualized portrayals of living people is more valuable and precious than one hundred stereotyped and monotonous works of art or literature which follow a formal approach and rigid pattern."

"What is produced in a stereotyped format is not an artistic work, but a commodity, and the man who produces it is not a writer, but a producer of commodities."

"Originality is the intrinsic nature of creation."

"Creation springs from the heart."

"Creative passion is the very life of a creative worker."

"If a work is full of philosophy and life, it is a successful work."

"Literature is a type of humanics."

"Literature is the art of language."

"Literature is a philosophy of life that gives an answer to the problem of man's destiny through artistic images."

"The strength of artistic generalization lies not in making people understand one hundred things by showing them one hundred things, but in making them understand one hundred things by showing them one thing."

"The strength of portrayal lies in its being true to life and philosophy."

"Ideas that are not portrayed artistically only lead literature to its demise."

"The Juche character is the face and spirit of our national literature."

"National literature devoid of the spirit of national independence is nothing more than a body bereft of soul."

"Stereotyping is a barrier between literature and the reader."

"Imitation will result in formal writing and the following of patterns, and this spells the death of art."

"The writer must become a standard-bearer who takes the lead in life, in the van of the times."

"A writer who is not a patriot cannot produce a patriotic work, and a writer who is not a revolutionary cannot produce a revolutionary work."

"A writer must become a philosopher, an ardent researcher of life and a master of artistic language."

"Only a true man can say true words and only a true writer can produce true works."

"In a work of art or literature written by the writer who has not acquired sincere experience of life, the technical skill can be felt, but not the author's warm, pulsating heart with which he should respond affirmatively to life."

"Creating a portrayal that shows unaffectedly the philosophical part of vivid and impressive life is the writer's skill."

"Real life is an inexhaustible source of knowledge for writers, and fertile soil on which they

can make their creative skills bloom."

"A revolutionary poem can take the place of millions of spears and swords."

"Poems can be true to life and move people only when they flow from stimulated emotion."

"True poems and lyrics, without exception, are found among the masses and created in the course of their actual lives."

"True poetic words are found in the speech of ordinary people."

"The life of a poet loved by the people is immortal."

"Solving significant problems and clarifying ideas through life is the essential nature of art."

"Art that moves the people's thoughts and hearts is a powerful weapon of the revolutionary struggle

that transforms the world."

"The level of art of a country and nation is an important criterion for measuring the level of politics, the economy, ideology and morality of that country and nation."

"Naturalism is anti-realism in the guise of realism."

"Art is a product of ideas and passion."

"Creative workers and artistes are spokesmen of the times and the conscience of the masses."

"Drama is the art of speech, while cinema is the art of action."

"Good words can be found in the lives of the people."

"The best words are full of meaning and easy to understand."

"The actor is the face of the film and stage."

"Realistic acting is the life of the actor."

"The acting of the actor must always be creative–different in each work and new on each stage."

"Directing is the art of creative work as well as the art of leadership."

"What is captured by the cameraman's eyes is the scene and the scene reflects life."

"Music is the art of melody."

"Where there is labour, there is song; where there is song, there is the romance of life."

"Life goes hand in hand with music and song."

"Life without music is like a garden without flowers."

"A revolutionary song is a marching song resounding in the ranks of fighters and an anthem of the advance of the times."

"The text of a song must be a refined poem."

"A song with unfailing appeal, a song that people love and enjoy singing, is a true masterpiece."

"A musical masterpiece is a song which the more one listens to it, the better it sounds, the more one thinks over it, the more profound its meaning becomes, and the more one sings it, the more one wants to sing it."

"Only the songs which people love and enjoy singing are masterpieces."

"Musical masterpiece of the times can emerge only from reality pulsating with the spirit of the times."

"However excellent they are, world

masterpieces cannot take the place of our songs that express the ideas and emotions of our people."

"A prosperous country is always filled with songs."

"Opera is the art of song, the art of action and the art of life."

"The truthful reflection of life and formative truthfulness are the life of the realistic fine arts."

"A man who does not appreciate the beauty of flowers can neither love them nor draw them beautifully. A picture painted without love for the mountains and rivers of the motherland cannot pluck the heartstrings of the people."

"Sometimes a painting plucks the heartstrings of the people more than one hundred words."

"Fine art leaves landmarks of beauty in history."

"Architecture is a composite art."

"The masses are the most perceptive critics."

"Reality is a strict judge."

16. PUBLISHING AND NEWS, PHYSICAL CULTURE AND MEDICAL SERVICES

"A revolutionary publication is a silent teacher that leads people along the road of revolution, and a textbook of life."

"Newspapers, broadcasting and information service are powerful weapons of the revolutionary struggle."

"Being opportune and timely is the life of

publications and news items."

"A newspaper is a silent informant and motivator."

"Newspapers must respond to the requirements and aspirations of the readers, and serve as a kind educator, enlightener and guide of the masses."

"Our newspapers are people's newspapers serving the masses."

"The editorial is the banner of the newspaper."

"The editorial of the party newspaper is a directive from the party."

"Plagiarized writing has no face of its own."

"Articles written as if dancing to the tune of others could make people senseless mental cripples."

"The dignity of a journalist lies in walking ahead of others."

"Distribution of news is the basic mission of news items."

"The press is a pioneer that rouses public opinion."

"Broadcasts are the voice of the country."

"Broadcasting is an important political instrument and a powerful means of communication."

"Good health can be called wealth for a revolutionary."

"A strong physique is a source of the mettle and vitality of youth, and a guarantee for creative labour and heroic struggle."

"The sturdy physiques of young people who are

growing up to be pillars of the country are the strength of the country."

"Just as a piano is basic to music, so track-and-field events are basic to sport."

"Medical services for the people are not simply technical tasks, but important political tasks as well."

"There is no incurable disease for a doctor who cherishes love for mankind."

"The best medicine is the doctor's devotion."

17. THE ARMY AND MILITARY SCIENCE

"The People's Army is a university of the revolution."

"An army does not simply fight; it is an excellent

school for ideological, mental and physical training."

"The army is discipline and discipline is the army."

"Resting on the force of the arms of the People's Army are peace and the victory of socialism."

"It is not the weapon but man that fights."

"A rifle that is held carelessly without working-class, revolutionary consciousness to guide it is even more useless than a stick."

"If a man becomes enamoured of a peaceful atmosphere, he is apt to become slack; if he is too slack, he might undermine a great event at any time."

"Sentries are the vigilant eyes of the country."

"A rifle is an eternal companion and comrade of a revolutionary."

"If you want to know the conscience of a soldier, look at his weapons."

"A soldier who does not love his country does not know how precious his weapons are."

"For a soldier who has shouldered the destiny of war, training is the satisfaction and honour of his life."

"The main key to becoming a match-for-a-hundred combatant lies in intensifying training."

"Resorting to form for form's sake and expediency in military training is flirting with death."

"The true life of a soldier begins with training, pulsates on the sweaty training ground and proves its worth in the meaningful days of military service and on the shell-pounded battlefield."

"Shooting is a science."

"The main skill a soldier must acquire is the marksmanship of a crack shot."

"When a soldier seizes a rifle he must always shoot straight through the enemy's heart."

"A soldier's feet are his wings."

"Frustrating in advance the enemy's attempt to attack is active defence."

"In modern warfare, a battle is a battle of commanders, which is in turn a battle of brains."

"The enemy must be defeated first of all by means of brains, not weaponry."

"Without scientific judgment, reasoning power and rich imagination, one cannot map out a daring strategy, and, without a daring strategy, one cannot defeat the enemy."

"If one knows oneself and the enemy, one can

win every battle; if one does not know oneself and the enemy, one can lose every battle."

"The intelligence of a general can prove its worth in the fight for the country only when it is combined with the patriotic spirit of the masses."

"Unity between officers and men and between the army and the people is proud tradition of our revolutionary army, its trait of nobility and the source of invincible strength that no aggressor army can have."

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